



Evaluation Summary Report

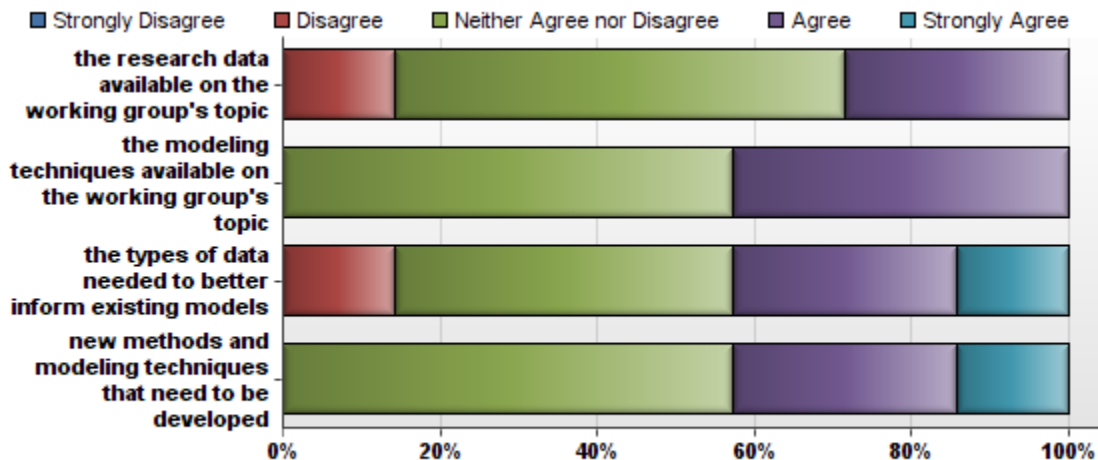
Working Group: *Ecological Network Dynamics*
Meeting One

June 10-12, 2015

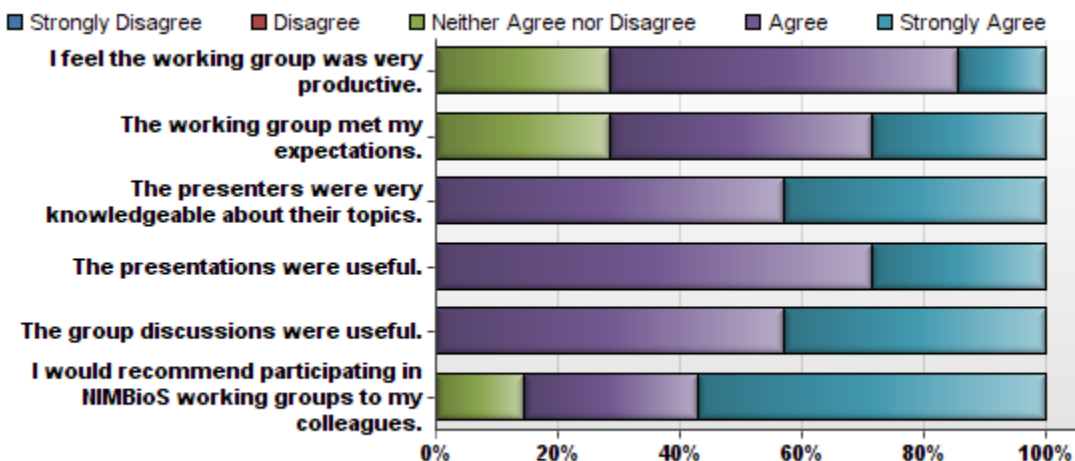
Pamela Bishop
Program Evaluation Manager
National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.

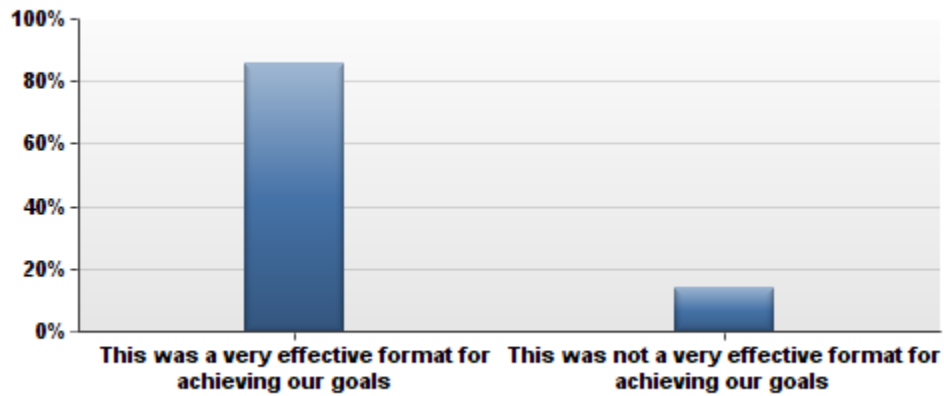
As a result of participating in this working group, I have a better understanding of:



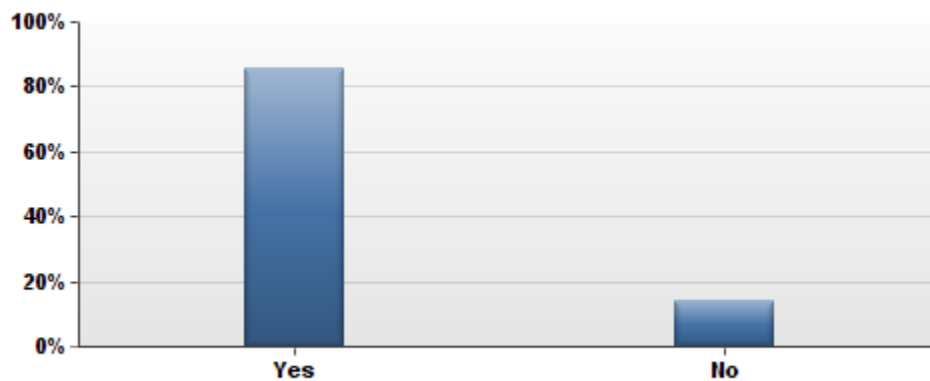
2. Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements about this working group:



3. How do you feel about the format of the working group?



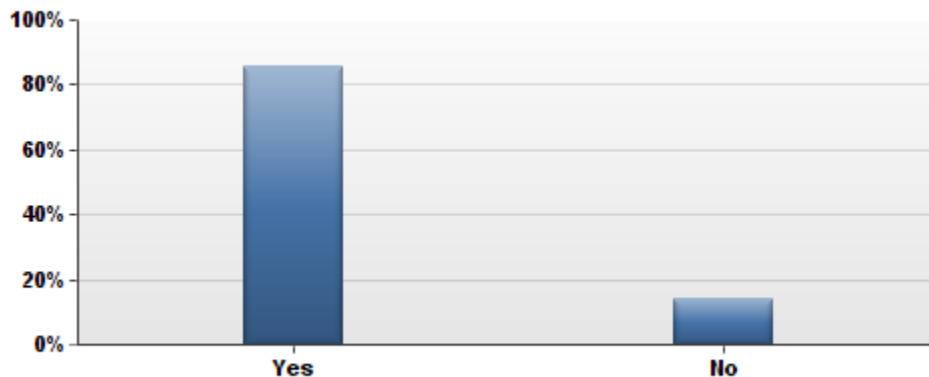
4. Do you feel the working group made adequate progress, for its first meeting, toward finding a common language across disciplines in the research area?



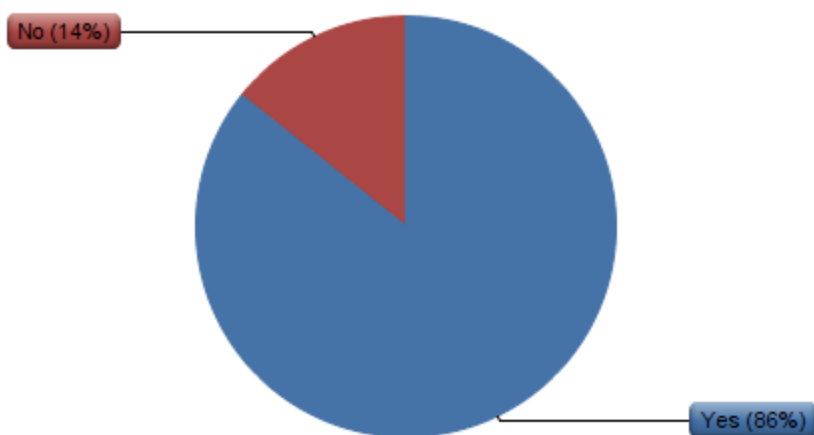
Comments:

This was the first meeting and the discussions focused on themes and relevant questions to work with in the next two years. Although some presentations were made, especially by the organizers, there was not much time to get into details.

5. Do you feel the participating in the working group helped you understand the research happening in other disciplines in the group's topic area?



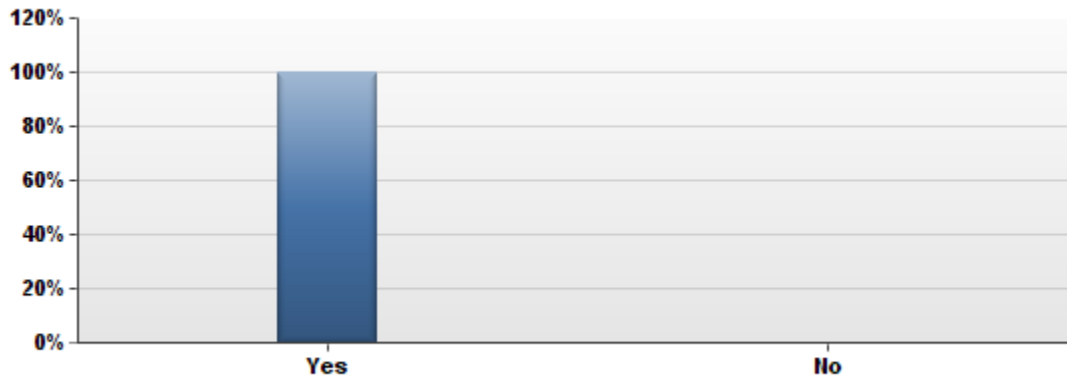
6. Did you develop unanticipated plans for collaborative research with other working group participants?



Please explain:

The meeting of our working group opened the possibility for me to collaborate at different topics addressed by some participants within the group; thus although my direct collaboration could occur with a subgroup of participants, I expect to contribute to the general objectives of the whole working group.

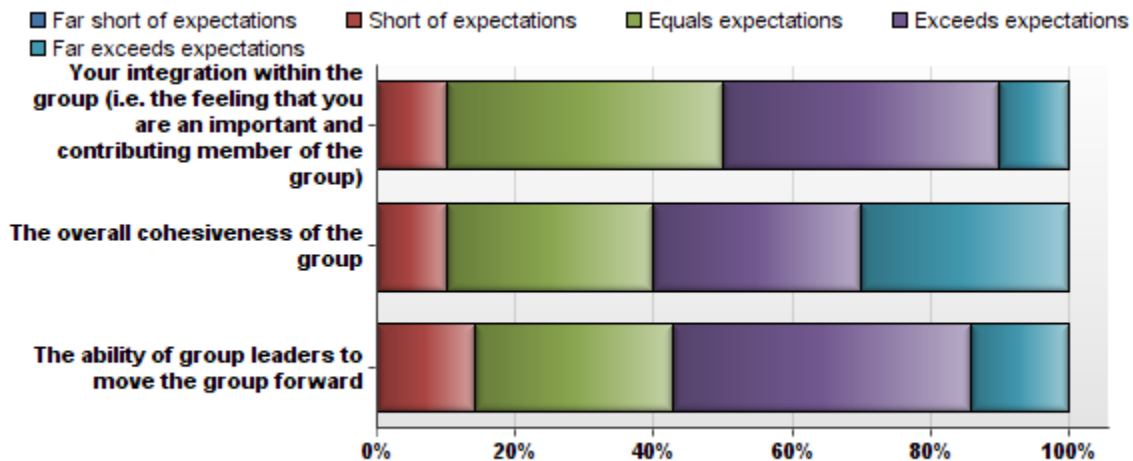
7. Do you feel that the exchange of ideas that took place during the working group will influence your future research?



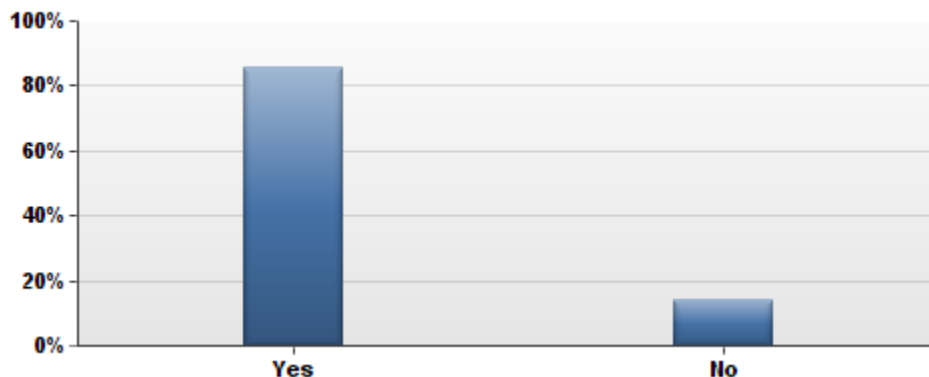
Comments:

So far my research in ecological networks have focus in biological/ecological field data with very scarce modelling and low spatial and theoretical generality (although highly broad-scale within the time context). I have now a broader perspective of geographical databases of ecological interactions and better understanding of their modelling given different theoretical frameworks including the processes behind the general patterns found.

8. Please let us know how the following aspects of your working group compared to your expectations before becoming a member of the group:



9. Do you feel the expectations for the next working group are clear (in the sense that you are leaving this meeting with a good idea of what your contribution will be at the next meeting)?



10. What do you feel was the most useful aspect of the working group?

Broad representation of disciplines (ecology, evolution), and types of research (model-based, empirical)

The diversity of time-space-theoretical scales that members within this working group address in their work as well as the diversity of their skills and professional profiles...this also present a challenge, but could result in more robust projects and products.

Meeting interesting people was certainly very nice. The discussions were also nice and I believe we ended up with a good set of plans for the next years.

Probably the unstructured discussions following the initial presentations.

Meeting everyone in person.

11. What, if anything, would you change about the working group?

I am not sure if this would be the best, but I consider it would be useful to have a more direct straightforward set of objectives and goals that reduce fragmentation on topics (given the diverse nature of the group, many topics arise) and reinforce the most feasible or productive ones to be developed as current projects and resultant papers.

I'm not sure. Because there was limited time, not everyone presented their research in the first meeting, so it was a little difficult to understand the perspectives of all of the participants in the initial collaborations. I think this will resolve itself by having all participants present in the second meeting. Also, I would have liked to stay another day longer, because the collaborative work was really progressing quickly in the presence of all the participants.

12. Please provide any additional comments about your overall experience with the working group:

Although we are at the state of initial collaborations it would be important that "subgroup" leaders (directing a specific topic or possible project line) are inclusive of all working group participants that would like to contribute to that "subgroup". The idea is not to eventually constraint collaborations to a work of pairs (that may occur given affinities), but work group would be something to pursue.

Thank you for hosting us!

I feel like my ratings are a bit harsh. It was a good first meeting and I'm looking forward to the rest. However, my experience with another working group that I truly enjoy and know is productive highlights many shortcomings of this one.